

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 IO-13 TRSE-00 DHA-02
OMB-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00
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PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NEAE-00 /085 W
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O 221128 MAR 77 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2028
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
USLO PEKING PRIORITY
473#.9/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 2356
AMCONSUL BOMBAY PRIORITY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY
AMCONSUL MADRAS PRIORITY
CINCPAC PRIORITY

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA FIVE)

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT IN
SUBJECT: JANATA PLEDGES TO REDEEM ITS CAMPAIGN PROMISES

SUMMARY: ONCE THE OUTCOME BECAME APPARENT, THE JANATA
LEADERSHIP ANNOUNCED ITS RESOLVE TO CARRY OUT ITS MANIFESTO
PLEDGES OF RESTORING CIVIL LIBERTIES AND FULL PRESS FREEDOM.
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IN ADDITION, MEMBERS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL BE EXPECTED
TO OBSERVE AUSTERITY. AS FOR THE CFD'S POST- ELECTORAL
INTENTIONS, JAGJIVAN RAM SAID THAT TOP PRIORITY MUST GO TO
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. IN ADDITION, IF AN INQUIRY IS
LAUNCHED INTO "EXCESSES", IT SHOULD FOCUS ON THE POLITICAL
LEADERS WHO GAVE THE INSTRUCTIONS RATHER THAN THE OFFICIALS

WHO RECEIVED THEM. J.P. NARAYAN HAS CALLED FOR FRESH ELECTION TO STATE ASSEMBLIES, WHILE SEVERAL CONGRESS CHIEF MINISTERS ARE ALREADY ON THE VERGE OF RESIGNATION. END SUMMARY.

1. ON MARCH 21, AS THE INCOMING ELECTION RETURNS BEGAN TO PRESAGE THE EVENTUAL OUTCOME, THE JANATA LEADERSHIP SWIFTLY ANNOUNCED ITS IMMEDIATE INTENTIONS FOLLOWING ITS ASSUMPTION OF POWER. ITS PLEDGES AMOUNT TO A FULL RESTORATION OF CIVIL LIBERTIES AND DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS AND GENERALLY FOLLOW THE THEMES OF ITS ELECTION MANIFESTO (SEE NEW DELHI 2093, PARA ONE). AFTER THE FIRST DAY'S MEETING OF THE PARTY'S NATIONAL COMMITTEE IN DELHI, JANATA SPOKESMAN SURENDRA MOHAN TOLD NEWSMEN THAT THE LEADERS HAD DECIDED ON THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC ACTIONS:

A) TO IMMEDIATELY LIFT THE EXTERNAL EMERGENCY DECLARED DURING THE 1971 BANGLADESH WAR;

B) TO RELEASE ALL DETAINEES HELD UNDER MISA AND TO INVESTIGATE SPECIFIC CHARGES AGAINST THEM;

C) TO RESTORE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS BY REPEALING THE PREVENTION OF PUBLICATION OF OBJECTIONABLE MATTER ACT, AND BY RESTORING THE FEROCES GANDHI ACT (WHICH WOULD GIVE IMMUNITY TO THE PRESS TO REPORT PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS);

D) TO REPEAL AMENDMENTS MADE TO MISA WHICH GIVE THE GOVERNMENT WIDE AUTHORITY TO DETAIN PERSONS WITHOUT TRIAL (NOTE: THE LIFTING OF THE INTERNAL EMERGENCY YESTERDAY EFFECTIVELY TERMINATED THE POWER OF THE GOI AND THE STATES TO HOLD DETAINEES WITHOUT DIVULGING THE CHARGES.);
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E) TO EXAMINE THE QUESTION OF REMOVING MISA FROM THE STATUTE BOOKS ALTOGETHER; AND

F) TO WITHDRAW THE BAN ON VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS (RSS, ANANDA MARG, JAMIAT-I-ISLAMI, ETC.) WHICH HAD BEEN IMPOSED DURING THE EMERGENCY. JANATA LEADERSHIP ALSO PLEDGED NOT TO IMPOSE SUCH A BAN ON AN ORGANIZATION WITHOUT FIRST CONDUCTING AN IMPARTIAL JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION.

2. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE FATE OF THE ACCUSED IN THE BARODA DYNAMITE CASE, MOHAN REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THOSE HELD UNDER MISA WILL HAVE THE DETENTION ORDERS REVOKED, WHILE THE NEW LAW MINISTRY WILL REVIEW THE ACTUAL CHARGES AGAINST THEM IN THE CONSPIRACY CASE; IF IT FINDS THE EVIDENCE INSUFFICIENT, THE CASE WILL BE WITHDRAWN. HE ADDED THAT IN THE MEANTIME HE EXPECTED THAT GEORGE FERNANDES AND THE OTHERS WILL BE GRANTED BAIL.

3. IN KEEPING WITH ITS MANIFESTO PLEDGE TO END "POMP, OSTENTATIOUS CONSUMPTION AND WASTE", THE PARTY LEADERSHIP ALSO DECIDED THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL OBSERVE AUSTERITY. TO THIS END, IT APPOINTED A COMMITTEE TO DRAFT A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MP'S AND MINISTERS TO PRESCRIBE NORMS FOR THEIR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LIVES. IN ADDITION, MP'S MAY BE ASKED TO FULLY DISCLOSE THEIR PERSONAL ASSETS.

4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT IN AN INTERVIEW WITH A "TIME" MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT THIS MORNING, MORARJI DESAI PICKED UP THIS AUSTERITY THEME, SAYING THAT INDIA MUST GET BACK TO GANDHIAN IDEALS: GANDHI WAS NOT AGAINST MACHINES, NOR WAS HE. BUT HE DID QUESTION THE NEED FOR EVERYONE TO HAVE A CAR. DESAI ALSO REPORTEDLY STATED THE NEED FOR POPULATION CONTROL WITHOUT COERCION BUT WITH CERTAIN INCENTIVES. HE TOLD " TIME" THAT THE PROGRAM MUST BE VOLUNTARY, BUT BOTH THE ROD AND THE CARROT MUST BE PRESENT.
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5. AS FOR THE CFD'S POST-ELECTORAL INTERNTIONS, JAGJIVAN RAM TOLD REPORTERS YESTERDAY THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD GIVE PRIORITY ATTENTION TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. HE ALSO REPEATED HIS CONTENTION THAT GOVERNMENT OFFICERS SHOULD NOT BE PROSECUTED FOR COMMITTING EXCESSES; RATHER, AN INQUIRY SHOULD BE MADE OF THE POLITICAL LEADERS AND MINISTERS WHO HAD ISSUED THE INSTRUCTION TO CIVEL SERVANTS.

6. DURING THE CAMPAIGN, RAM HAD DEMANDED THAT PRESIDENT'S RULE BE LIFTED IN TAMIL NADU AND STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS HELD THERE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. AT A MARCH 21 PRESS CONFERENCE IN PATNA, J.P. NARAYAN EXPANDED ON THIS BY DEMANDING FRESH ELECTIONS FOR THE STATE ASSEMBLIES, BECAUSE THE LOK SABHA RESULTS HAD SHOWN THAT CONGRESS GOVERNMENTS IN THE STATES HAD BECOME "UNREPRESENTATIVE".
SCHNEIDER

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